have been instructed to bring their vehicles within the prescribed standards before obtaining 'Certificate of Fitness'.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to Control Vehicular pollution include the following:—

(1) The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has set up a comprehensive action plan to reduce pollution and control smoke emission from its buses. This action plan consists of (i) reducing smoke emissions by tuning vehicles/engines (ii) acquiring buses for replacement of over-aged buses from the active fleet (iii) reducing overloading (iv) introducing buses with fuel conservative engines (v) equippinig the vehicles with smoke meters for monitoring the smoke levels of the fleet held at the units.

(2) Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration has launched a publicity campaign and initiated action on the Government vehicles and buses of the DTC to ensure that they meet the standards notified.

(3) Pollution checking and tuning facilities have been provided at 110 private workshops and petrol pumps in Delhi.

(d) A prosecution drive has been launched against the vehicles violating the emission standards.

(5) The Government has started a programme of running battery powered buses so as to minimise vehicular pollution in the congested areas of traffic.

(6) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified.

(7) The Petroleum Industry has been asked to bring down the lead content in petrol to 0.15 gm/l by 1993.

Afforestation in Rajasthan

1788. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of Forest, Desert and Agricultural land in Rajasthan with percentage of each;

(b) the area of desert under afforestation by the Japanese firm; and

(c) whether there is any plan to include more desert areas under afforestation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The total geographical area of Rajasthan is 34.22 million hectares. The position regarding the recorded forest area, desert area and net sown area is as follows:—

	Area (Mil. hectars)	Percentage of total geograhical area.
(i) Recorded forest area	3.16	9.2%
(ii) Desert area	20.87	60.9%
(iii) Net sown area	16.12	47.1%

(b) The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, is providing assistance for two afforestation projects in Rajasthan as mentioned below:—

(i) Afforestation and Pasture Development along the Indira Gandhi Canal Area. The total cost of the project is Rs. 107.5 crores for covering an area of 0.61 lakh hectares.

(ii) Afforestation Project for Aravalli Hills. The total cost of the project is Rs. 166.9 crores for covering an area of 1.15 lakh hectares and distribution of 75 million seedlings.

(c) Afforestation and tree planting activities, which cover the desert area in Rajasthan, are continuing activities under the scheme of the State Government, the Desert Development Programme, externally aided afforestation projects, etc.

Pollution caused at Dhobi Ghat, Inder Lok, Delhi

1789. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Members of Parliament have drawn Government's attention *vide* representation dated 30th March, 1992 to the pollution caused by the poisonous gases emitted by burning of P.V.C. waste material at Dhobi Ghat, Inder Lok, Delhi and by emission of gases by foods and fertilisers unit of D.C.M. Chemical Works, Zakhira, Delhi which badly affects the health of residents of nearby colonies;

(b) if so, what action has so far been taken by Government; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been asked to ensure that PVC waste is not burnt indiscriminately in residential areas of Delhi. Based on the directions of the Supreme Court, Shriram Food & Fertilizers Industries at Zakhira, Delhi, has implemented the recommendations of the Expert Committee set up by the Supreme Court in 1985-86. The emissions from the unit are within the prescribed standards. A weekly inspection of the safety status of the unit is submitted to the Supreme Court in compliance.

Reserve Forest Area

1790. SHRI CHANDRA MOHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether human habitations exist inside the Similipal Reserve forest area and if so, how many are Reserve villages and how many of them are forest villages;

(b) how were these villages established and/or who established them —the Government or the people themselves;

(c) whether the inhabitants of these villages have free and unrestricted access into and or exist from their habitations or working places or there is any restriction;

(d) if there are restrictions, what are those; and

(e) which department of Government administers these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.